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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: )  
 Applicant : Bejanin and Tanaka )  
 Appl. No. : 09/924,340 ) Grp./A.U. : 1645  
 Filed : August 6, 2001 ) Examiner : Unassigned  
 Title : **HUMAN cDNAs AND PROTEINS** )  
           **AND USES THEREOF.** )

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED  
 APR 15 2002  
 TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-13.

Please add new claims 14-33:

14. (New) An isolated vCOL16A1 polynucleotide, said polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino-acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:58 or a biologically active fragment thereof spanning no supplementary amino-acids between the glycine at position 97 and the proline at position 98 of SEQ ID NO:58.

15. (New) The polynucleotide of claim 14, wherein said vCOL16A1 polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:57 or a fragment thereof.